

REMARKS

In this paper, claim 1 is currently amended, claim 34 is added, and claims 5 and 16-33 are canceled. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-4, 6-15 and 34 are pending, and claims 5 and 16-33 have been canceled.

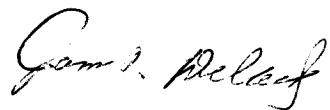
Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hickman, et al (US 2005/0233861) in view of Shea (US 6,171,218). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the administration control unit includes a rank processing unit that processes and provides ranking information for a plurality of bicycle users. This feature is a modified form of the feature recited in originally filed claim 5. When rejecting the ranking feature recited in claim 5, the office action referred to Hickman as teaching that the disclosed system could be used in the Tour de France, and that it would be obvious to rank the cyclists as in the Tour de France ranking system. However, Hickman merely teaches at paragraph [0156] that the system could be used to communicate with cyclists in group races or competitions by using a server (272A) in a pace car, which could service a number of controllers associated with individual bicycles. At most, the server would provide information about the current location of each cyclist. Unless the user knew how to process that information by existing knowledge about the course or the condition of each cyclist, there would be no way to know the ranking of each cyclist relative to each other. By contrast, the system recited in claim 1 would provide the actual ranking information so that the user need not guess the actual relationship of the cyclists relative to each other. Neither Hickman, et al nor Shea discloses or suggests the subject matter recited in the claims as amended.

New claim 34 further requires such ranking information to be historical ranking information. That is, the information includes historical data instead of or in addition to current status of the rider. Examples of such information include cycling distance, cycling time, etc. as recited at paragraph [0015] of the specification. Neither Hickman, et al nor Shea discloses or suggests the subject matter recited in this claim.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 has been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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